



Staff Sgt. Lannie McNeal

Helen Glass (above) and two girls (below) hold vigils at Evergreen Cemetery.



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# Sept. 11: Patriot Day Message

**By Dr. James Roche**  
*Secretary of the Air Force*  
**Gen. John Jumper**  
*Air Force chief of staff*

One year ago, our nation and the world suffered a shocking and tragic attack.

Thousands died, many were injured, and still more lives were forever altered with the loss of loved ones and friends.

Today, we pay our respects to those who lost their lives in the attack, and we pay tribute to those service men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure events like these never happen again.

On America's first Patriot Day, we pause and reflect on the sacrifices of our fallen countrymen.

Remember them in your thoughts and your prayers.

While we've suffered a great loss, the vivid memory of Sept. 11 has unified our nation and intensified our resolve to win the fight against international terrorism. As airmen, you can be especially proud of your contributions to this cause.

When our nation needed its Air Force most, our magnificent team of active duty, guard, reserve, and civilian airmen responded with pride and the utmost professionalism. From deploying troops and defending our skies at home, to building



Airmen Lindsey Stocum

Members of the Davis-Monthan Color Guard raise the flag during the morning remembrance ceremonies at Smith Elementary.

the sacrifices made, we remain engaged in a fight against a determined and resilient enemy. Our mission has never been clearer.

Our best defense — against future attacks, hostile anti-American regimes, weapons of mass destruction and terrorist organizations, is a strong offense.

Our Air Force and our nation must vigorously prepare for the challenges that lie ahead. Make no mistake, we will be challenged.



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D-M Color Guard at Evergreen Cemetery.



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Andrea Duhamell participates in a candlelight vigil at Evergreen Cemetery.

International terrorists should harbor no illusion that Americans will sit idly by and wait for the next attack. We will not. We will take the initiative and take the fight to them wherever they hide, before they strike.

Ultimately, we best honor those lost on Sept. 11 by rededicating ourselves to the obligations of military service and by ensuring we have the capability, training and resolve to win those fights wherever and whenever they occur.

A year ago, some of our enemies believed the principles of our nation — liberty and equality, were somehow tenuous symbols that could be attacked and destroyed. They were wrong.

The United States of America is more than a place; it is a glorious idea that will endure as long as people who seek freedom exist around the world.

We will prevail in this fight. The character of the American people and our willingness to bear any burden in the name of liberty will not allow an outcome to the contrary.

As President George Bush unequivocally stated, "we will not waver, we will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail."

The road ahead is clear, your efforts tremendous and America's future is shining brightly. May God bless you and may God bless America.



Staff Sgt. Shanda De Anda

Gen. Ronald Shoopman, 162nd Fighter Wing, hammers a nail during the building of 11 Habitat for Humanity homes.



Senior Airman Marjann Walker

The D-M Honor Guard at Tucson Electric Park.



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Andrea Duhamell, a member of the Girl Scouts, shows her American pride.



Airmen Lindsey Stocum

Students, parents and teachers at Smith Elementary sing patriotic songs during a remembrance ceremony.